

Real Women Have Curves Worksheet

1. Describe the *stasis* in the play: where, when, who, what, etc. in a paragraph.

Ana and Estela are the daughters of Carmen. They are all seamstresses working in a small sewing factory in the east side of Los Angeles. This is set in 1987 during September. Other characters are the two colleagues who sew alongside the three women, Pancha and Rosali, and they serve as more of the middle(wo)men during the play. Ana is a young politically active feminist who yearns for more than just a boxed-in machine, Estela yearns for love and for her business to take off, and Carmen just wants *la migra* to get off of everyone's back.

2. What is the *intrusion*?

The intrusion is when Estela is given a large order to do that must be done in time or lest the immigration police will catch her and deport her.

3. What is the *unique factor*?

The employees find out that Estela is in way more debt than they thought and that she is at heavy risk for deportation.

4. What is the *dramatic question* that should be answered by the end of the play?

Will Estela be able to stay in the United States? Will Ana be able to go to college like she's always dreamed about?

5. Provide an illustration of the *two kinds of exposition* that the play has in it.

Estela withholding information about how her date went with the others, and the other is how Carmen got her scar.

6. Identify the most *theatrical moment* in the play and of what importance it seems to be.

The most theatrical moment has to be when the women strip off due to the heat and began comparing their bodies with one another. The women are embracing their own curvaceous bodies and discussing their cellulite and scars, but also really displaying what real women's bodies look like, not the kind of crap they show on magazine covers and movie screens.

7. List some of the *themes* of the play.

Workers' Rights, Unjust Treatment of Immigrants, Class Struggles, Beauty Standards

8. What do the principal characters *want* and what are some *obstacles* that stand in the way of them getting what they want?

Ana wants to go to college, but her mother stands in her way as well as not having the money to pay for college since her financial aid is still pending. Estela wants her business to continue running, but the company she runs under takes advantage of her and her workers and continue to pile debt and more work on top of her, making it impossible for her to gain a profit or even to just break even. Carmen wants her daughters to bear her grandchildren, but both of her daughters want their own life outside of a nuclear family.

9. Describe some possible *images* in the play and how does the *title* help us understand the play.

Curves are definitely a huge point of this play as the main characters are all plump women. The title helps us understand the play by insinuating that real women do not care about the "conventional" beauty standard, that they will embrace their own curves regardless of what society or men say is attractive. Real women do not indulge in other's expectations and will instead enjoy themselves and their curves.

10. Briefly define the *family relationships* that are examined in the play.

Ana and Estela love their mother, but they both find her to be overwhelming and annoying. Carmen only wants her daughters to be safe, even if it means clipping their wings to do so. Ana does not want that, because she wants to fly to a college degree and to be more than what the sewing factory can offer her. Estela wants to be

stern with her mother since she is also her boss, but it is hard for her to find that balance since there is that familial relationship.